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The Steward

Newsletter of Alberta's Natural and Protected Areas
and the People Who Care for Them

Issue 26

Spring 1994

Naturally Yours

The Natural Areas Program is sponsored by
Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife

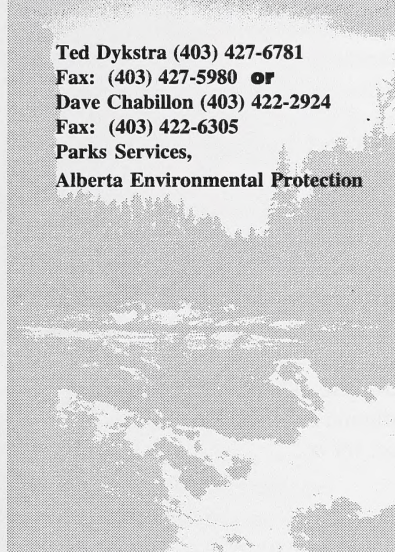
Alberta Joins Canadian Heritage Rivers System

Alberta has joined the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) Program, a federal-provincial program designed to recognize outstanding rivers of Canada. To date, 17 rivers have been designated across Canada. Another 10 rivers have been nominated for consideration under the program.

Nominations are assessed on the basis of natural heritage, human heritage and recreational values, according to criteria developed by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. Alberta will begin its participation with a systems study of all major rivers in the province to determine which rivers meet the criteria for designation. Once chosen, a Heritage River will be managed to protect its significant heritage values for the

For further information, contact:

Ted Dykstra (403) 427-6781
Fax: (403) 427-5980 **or**
Dave Chabillon (403) 422-2924
Fax: (403) 422-6305
Parks Services,
Alberta Environmental Protection



long-term benefit and enjoyment of Canadians. Dave Chabillon, Assistant Deputy Minister, Parks Services, has been appointed Alberta's representative to the board.

Once chosen, a Heritage River will be managed to protect its significant heritage values for the long-term benefit and enjoyment of Canadians.

The CHRS program does not restrict activity on, or along a river, but does require that the river be managed to conserve the outstanding natural, cultural and recreational heritage resources for which it was nominated. Successful nomination of rivers will require the close cooperation of the provincial government.

Natural Areas and Government Reorganization

by Peter Lee

As many of you now know, the Natural Areas Program has been transferred to Parks Services of Alberta Environmental Protection. Previously, and for many, many years—in fact, since the program's beginnings in the early 1970s—the program had been housed in Public Lands Division.

Natural areas are now part of a broader protected areas program coordinated by Parks Services and includes other sites such as ecological reserves,

wilderness areas and provincial parks. Many of the philosophies and initiatives that staff of the Natural Areas Program developed are valued in the Parks organization and so are being expanded to other kinds of sites. For example, the Volunteer Steward Program will expand to include other kinds of protected areas. As another

example, Parks has committed to re-engineering itself toward a more protection-oriented focus and away from building intensive facility developments and infrastructure. These efforts are very similar to initiatives and philosophies promoted by the Natural Areas Program for many years.

Staff of the "old" Natural Areas Program will be doing some tasks that are in addition to and different from before, but we are all still here. So please give us a call at 427-5209 if you have any concerns or questions about the program or about your site. ◀

"Making Connections"

After a long, hard winter, many Albertans take the annual return of migrant songbirds from the tropics as *the* signal that spring has finally arrived. Ironically, although birding is now North America's fastest-growing and second most popular (after gardening) outdoor recreational activity, the world's birds are declining like never before. Compared to its former glory, the once mighty northward-flowing river of neotropical migratory birds (NTMs) has been reduced to a trickle and, without rapid and drastic conservation measures, seems likely to dry up entirely.

Birds account for two-thirds of Alberta's vertebrate biodiversity and NTMs (i.e., birds that spend the bulk of their lives in the tropics but visit the USA and/or Canada during our summer in order to breed) constitute 60 percent of the province's regularly occurring bird species. The NTMs and the problems they face are the subject of a recently published, 24-page, pamphlet entitled *Making Connections: Alberta's Neotropical Migratory Birds*.

"Everything is connected to everything else" was chosen as the pamphlet's theme because, according to its author, Richard Thomas, environmental problems can only be understood and solved when analyzed within the context of their **deep-rooted** political, socio-economic and historical causes.

Making Connections, a not-for-profit project that took over a year to realize/produce, should appeal especially to birders (at all levels of experience) and anyone interested in boreal and tropical forest protection. Thomas hopes it will serve not only as a source of information but, more importantly, as a call to action. The magazine explains how our lifestyles, consumer habits, food choices (e.g., the consumption of bananas, coffee and fast-food beef) and present economic and political systems are the ultimate causes of the precipitous declines in NTM populations. By including "equations" such as "NO HABITAT = NO BIRDS = NO BIRDING" Thomas hopes to stimulate many more birders into becoming actively involved in habitat conservation. He argues that "birds are the canaries in our environmental coal mine" and—because we too are an integral component of the biosphere—"whatever fate awaits birds and biodiversity, also lies in store for us."

Making Connections features the first comprehensive, annotated list of Alberta's NTMs; "mini-biographies" of 16 widely distributed NTMs that breed in Alberta; a page of suggested actions you can take to "make a difference," and a list of resources including programs, organizations and additional reference/reading material.

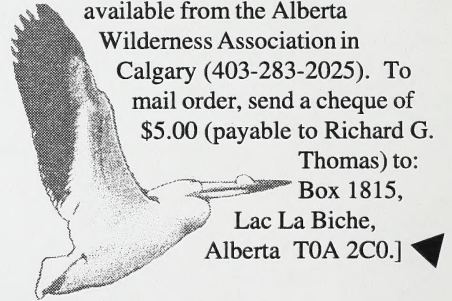
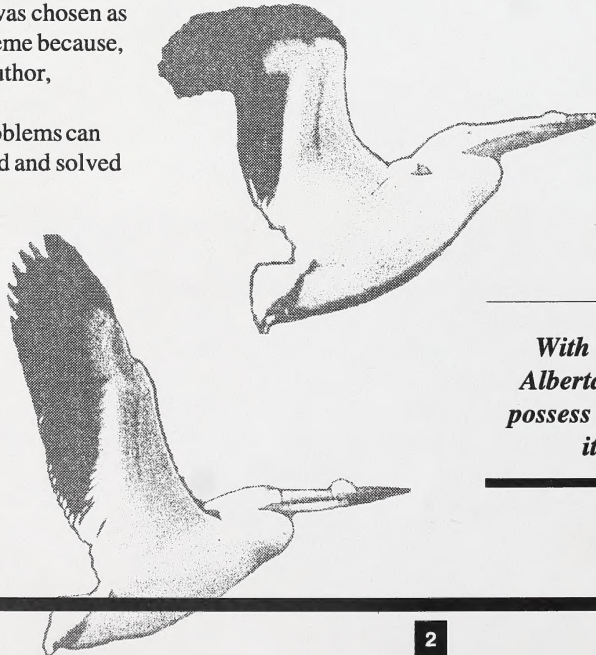
With the advent of *Making Connections*, Alberta is believed to be the first province to possess a stand-alone publication dedicated to its NTMs and their conservation. Thomas developed the "big picture" perspective embodied by the pamphlet following a decade of avid birding, living and travelling in Mexico and Central America, and most recently, working in Lac La Biche—where "Boreal Forest destruction is not an abstract concept but an everyday, highly visible reality."

Making Connections will be sold at various birding/book stores and nature centres throughout Alberta. It is also available from the Alberta Wilderness Association in Calgary (403-283-2025). To mail order, send a cheque of \$5.00 (payable to Richard G.

Thomas) to:
Box 1815,

Lac La Biche,
Alberta T0A 2C0.]

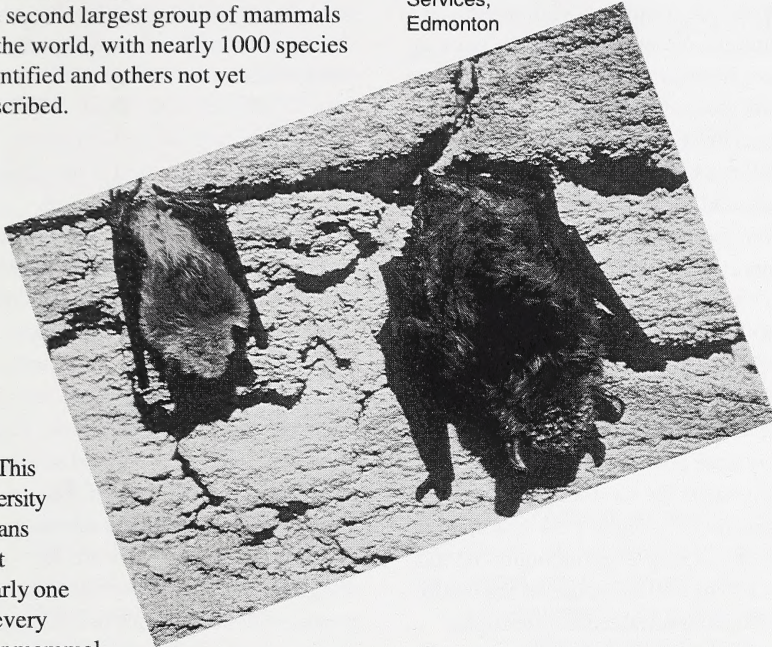
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Don't Be Afraid to Say You Like Bats!

Bats and natural areas just naturally go together. Bats make up the second largest group of mammals in the world, with nearly 1000 species identified and others not yet described.

by M. J. Pybus, Alberta Fish and Wildlife Services, Edmonton



This diversity means that nearly one of every four mammal

species currently known in the world is a bat! Although the majority of bat species live in tropical regions, it is inconceivable that any natural area in Alberta would not have a few bat species as integral components of the ecosystem. They are the major predator of a variety of night-flying insects, doing the "night shift" equivalent of what swallows and flycatchers do during the day. The guano produced after eating all those insects may be important in the nutrient cycles that help maintain the health and diversity of other plant and animal species that share the same environment.

If we need to change our attitude toward any creature, bats should be at the top of the list. For centuries they

have been falsely maligned and often destroyed simply because they were different. And they *are* different. They are mammals, yet they fly. They have wings, but they are not birds. They are active at night, and sleep upside down during the day. They can navigate with perfection in complete darkness by using a complex series of sounds that we cannot even hear, let alone understand. To me, it is these differences that make bats so intriguing.

This article covers the general life history strategies and activities of bat species known to occur in Alberta. Nine species have been reported, though we generally see only four or five species with any regularity. All

species found in Alberta are insectivorous (eat only insects) and rely heavily on echolocation to locate their prey for capture. Each bat has the equivalent of a sonic fingerprint, with which it can identify and differentiate its own echoes from those of other bats echolocating at the same time and place. Complex folds in their ears and noses help the bat to collect and interpret the incoming echoes.

In general, there are two types of life history strategies used by bats in Alberta: living in trees and living in buildings. Most tree-dwelling bats have relatively long, thin wings that are well designed for long-distance flight. The bats overwinter in the southwestern United States and it is only the females that migrate into Alberta. They appear in late spring (April to June), raise their young in the parkland and boreal regions, and then return to the southern United States in August and September. These forest species lead a fairly solitary life, often living singly or in small groups of females with their offspring together in the same tree. Silver-haired bats (*Lasiurus noctivagans*) and hoary bats (*Lasiurus cinereus*) are the most common forest-dwelling bats in Alberta. These bats can be difficult to find and are best seen at dusk when they leave the trees to forage for insects over water, in forest clearings, along cutlines, or along the edge of wooded areas.

Bats that live in buildings originally lived in trees but have adapted successfully to using a wide range of man-made structures. These bats usually occur in colonies consisting of 10 to 1000 individuals. The colonies contain primarily adult females that live together in maternal groups from before the birth of the young through the summer rearing period (the adult males tend to be much more solitary and live alone in trees, woodpiles or (continued on pg. 4)

Don't Be Afraid to Say You Like Bats
(from pg. 3)

buildings). In early July, each female bears a single young bat. Growth and development of juveniles is extremely rapid, and within a month they are nearly full grown and able to find and capture their own food. If they survive the first year, individuals may live as long as 35 years!

Generally, bats inhabit buildings only during the summer; during the winter, they hibernate in caves and abandoned mines in the foothills of Alberta and Montana. There is a strong fidelity to the home roosts or hibernacula and each year the bats return to the same places to bear their young or to hibernate, respectively.

There is a marked difference in the environmental conditions needed in summer and winter. Bats are true hibernators in the winter, so they must lower their metabolic rate to compensate for the lack of food intake. Thus, they need to find a location where the microclimate is constant with a temperature of 4-6°C, high humidity and minimal airflow. One species, the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), tolerates a slightly broader range of winter conditions and can successfully hibernate in some buildings (but never the ones where they spent the summer).

Indeed, big brown bats appear to migrate into Edmonton to hibernate in unused warehouses and office towers that are kept just warm enough to prevent the pipes from freezing. If the microclimate conditions in the hibernaculum change, the bat will arouse and go looking for suitable conditions. These changes usually occur in conjunction with major changes in the weather and, thus, a bat can be seen in Edmonton at -30°C as it searches for a new place to hibernate.

On the contrary, suitable conditions for a summer maternal colony involve high temperatures (the hotter, the better) and low humidity. The high temperatures promote a high metabolic rate and rapid growth of the young. Anyone putting up a bat box in Alberta is encouraged to mount it in a sunny location and paint the outside of the box black or dark brown in order to absorb and hold the sun's heat. For successful occupancy, also mount the box in an uncluttered site that allows the bats easy and clear flight paths to and from the box (this is particularly important below the box).

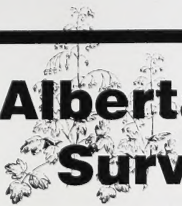
The best opportunities for viewing bats are at dusk. The bats begin their night forages approximately 45 minutes after sunset. Initially they are active near water bodies to rehydrate after a long hot day and to help digest the food they are about to consume. A second peak in activity occurs shortly after midnight. At this time, bats will make use of the moths and beetles attracted to streetlights (or lights in parks and campgrounds). For the truly hardy bat watchers, there is a third activity period that begins shortly before dawn and is focused over water bodies. Large numbers of aquatic invertebrates emerge as adults at dawn, at which time the bats are ready and waiting to take full advantage. Bats are voracious feeders and can easily consume their own weight in insects each night.

Many people are concerned that bats may be infected with diseases, particularly rabies. Information collected by Alberta Fish and Wildlife Services indicates that very few bats in Alberta have rabies. A small number of rabid bats (5 to 8)

are reported each year in Alberta. They come from a wide geographic distribution throughout the province and the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), by far the most common bat in Alberta, is reported the least (only 1 or 2 in the last 10 years). However, any bat found on the ground, apparently unable to fly, should be treated with caution even though there is little likelihood that it may be infected with rabies. The bat should be collected (without direct handling) and submitted to the closest federal veterinarian or Fish and Wildlife office for rabies testing. No other disease of medical importance has been identified in bats in Alberta.

To return to our attitude toward bats—there is simply no justification for our fear and misunderstanding of these animals. World wide only three species of bats feed on blood and none of them live in Alberta. All bats in Alberta feed on insects, consuming tons each summer. They are an integral part of the ecosystem and provide valuable service in reducing insect numbers and redistributing nutrients within the environment. They are inconspicuous and unobtrusive. They spend five to seven months hibernating. Even during the summer, they spend up to 20 hours per day sleeping and are active only at night. Bats do not chew insulation, electrical wires or structural elements of buildings. The threat to human health is minimal and easily avoided.

In other words, there is no need to fear, persecute or eradicate these unique animals. Responsible stewardship demands that we appreciate bats and learn to coexist with them and accept their role as a natural element in the fauna of Alberta. ◀



Alberta Wildflower Survey Update

Spring greetings from the Alberta Wildflower Survey! Our eighth growing season is gearing up now: Will the crocuses and poplars be late this year, after our cold and snowy winter?

If you enjoy regular walks and the recording of your natural history observations, you may want to join other volunteers who record the blooming times for 15 of our common wildflowers.

Why "watch the wildflowers"? Knowing the timing for development of plants aides decision-making in many fields including agriculture (best times to plant seeds, control pests), forestry (seed harvest timing), human health (pollen

prediction for allergies) and wildlife management (spring green-up times for optimal elk/deer forage). Ongoing research is looking at agricultural links and climate triggers for flowering.

Would you like to join Canada's only large phenology survey? If so, contact me at the address below. The data our volunteer network collects are invaluable to an understanding of plant-climate relationships!

Elisabeth Beaubien
Alberta Wildflower Survey
Devonian Botanic Garden
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2E1

May Species Count

by Derek Johnson

The 19th Annual May Species Count of birds, mammals and plants in flower, sponsored by the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, was held on the weekend of May 28-29, 1994. The idea behind the count was to see how many species in each group could be identified within 24 hours in any geographic location in the province. As well as providing a

challenge for participants to report the most species for an area, the count was also a social event. Novices were encouraged to form groups with more experienced counters: the more people involved, the more interesting the whole event. Valuable scientific information was accumulated through this project, and its results will be published in the *Alberta Naturalist*.

Look for more information on the results of the May species count in the next issue of *The Steward*.

Do Bears Get Lost in the Woods?

Hi, my name is Don Johnston.

Have you ever found yourself in the woods not exactly sure where you are? Or maybe you've shied away from heading into the deep woods for fear of not being able to get yourself and your party out again.

If you've ever experienced even the slightest hesitation roaming around the great outdoors, I think I can help.

I have an extensive background in surveying and wilderness guiding and I'd like the opportunity to pass some of my knowledge onto you.

I've developed an extensive course on map and compass reading that will enable you to roam freely in the great outdoors and feel confident in doing so. This course has a cost of \$85.00 per person, (maximum 12 people per booking). I also have additional courses in low impact camping, wilderness first-aid and risk management. If you're interested give me a call at 482-6976 Edmonton, Alberta. Please leave me a message - I will return your call.

For the Birds



*The Film Series on
Migratory
Birds and Habitat
Protection*

The Alberta Wilderness Association, in association with Missing Link Productions Inc., has recently completed three half-hour programs on migratory birds and habitat protection.

A portion of the profits from video sales go to protect wildlife habitat. Each program features not only some incredible footage of birds, but positive stories of people getting involved to protect wildlife habitat.

Narrated by CBC Morningside's **Peter Gzowski**, each program features cover artwork by Robert Bateman and tips on what you can do to save habitat for the birds.

"For The Birds" (21 minutes, 1993) features the peregrine falcon, and the people who are bringing it back from the brink of extinction.

"Singing in the Rainforest" (26 minutes, 1993) gives rare and stunning closeups of Wood Warblers, in their (continued on page 12)

Can You Help? Funding Needed for Alberta Wildflower Survey

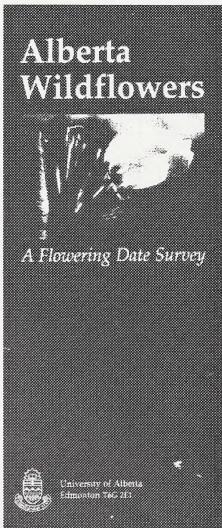
Continuing research on Alberta's wildflowers is in jeopardy due to lack of funding. **There are so many things we need to do!** For example:

- finding average bloom times for different areas of the province;
- mapping the green wave of spring to show how areas of Alberta differ;
- linking plant growth to development of pest insect and weed species, to save farmers money and to preserve a clean environment by reducing the amount of pesticides needed; and
- publishing information to help

observers recognize flowering stages, and encouraging more schoolchildren to "watch the wildflowers".

Donors will receive a charitable tax receipt from the University of Alberta.

Yes, I would like to financially support the Alberta wildflower survey!



- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------|
| Donor | \$ 1- \$ 24 | _____ |
| Contributor | \$ 25- \$ 99 | _____ |
| Patron | \$ 100- \$ 499 | _____ |
| Benefactor | \$ 500- up | _____ |

Enclosed is my donation for: _____

to help continue this wildflower research.

Please make your cheque payable to the Alberta Wildflower Survey,

and forward to: **Wildflower Survey**
Devonian Botanic Garden
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2E1

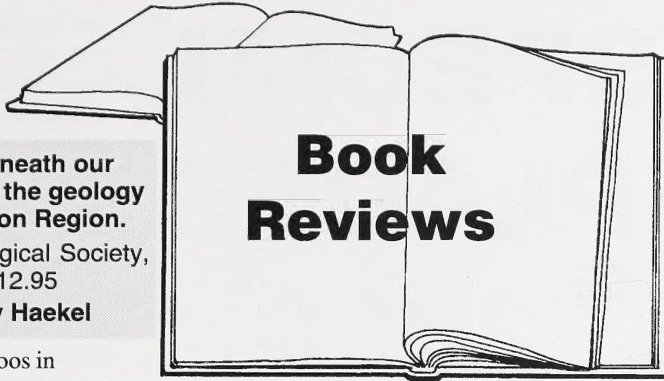
Phone (403) 987-3054

Fax 987-4141

Thank you for this help!

Planting Native Wildflowers

We are steadily losing habitat for our native wildflowers, because of ploughing, road and subdivision construction, land drainage, etc. The current interest in wildflower gardening is also a threat. Please encourage your friends to get native plants only from locally collected seed or from reputable nurseries (who do not sell wild-dug plants), rather than by removing plants from the wild. The Alberta Native Plant Council has a seed source list for \$3 (Box 52099, Gameau P.O., Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2T5) and free wildflower seeds are available January-March to members of the "Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden." ◀



Edmonton Beneath our Feet: A guide to the geology of the Edmonton Region.

Edmonton Geological Society,
1993. \$12.95

Review by Gerry Haekel

Badlands and hoodoos in Edmonton? Evidence of ancient lake beds and a volcanic explosion? You bet! these and much more are revealed—just beyond our doorsteps and between the covers of this excellent book. These stories are written in the layers, rocks and formations in and around Edmonton.

Central Alberta has had an interesting geologic past. “During the past 400 million years, the Edmonton Region has been sequentially-baked by the tropical sun, submerged under several oceans, torn and planed by the glaciers of a giant ice-cap and flooded by glacial meltwaters.” No wonder there are stories to be told.

The beginning of the book takes the reader back in time and describes how the geologic history of our prairie home unfolded and how the modern landforms came about. The second section looks at the economic wealth that is a product of this history and which is connected to Edmonton’s past and present—placer gold, coal, clay, gravel, oil and gas. Numerous terms are covered by a glossary at the end of the book, and for those who wish to do some more reading, a reference list is included.

Of special interest is a chapter on engineering geology, which describes the problems engineers encounter when actually trying to build on or under an ancient lake bed: the problems of tunnelling the LRT lines under downtown Edmonton, building a convention centre on river bank slopes that continually want to slide into the river, and interesting facts about landfill design and construction. Ever wonder what happens when the stuff within a landfill begins to decay and settle? Next time you cycle through the rolling hills of Rundle Park, remind yourself that this landscape was once flat.

Fervent collectors of field guides will find the viewing guide section a perfect finish to the book. Photos and sketches help the reader interpret and explore the landforms and strata readily seen along river valley trails. So, pack a picnic lunch and set out to cycle the river valley bikeway.

The Amphibians and Reptiles of Alberta: A Field Guide and Primer of Boreal Herpetology.

1993.

Anthony P. Russell and Aaron M. Bauer, with colour photographs by Wayne Lynch and illustrations by Irene McKinnon. The University of Calgary Press and the University of Alberta Press.
264 pp.

Contents:

- Characterization of amphibians and reptiles
- How to observe amphibians and reptiles
- A guide to Alberta’s amphibians and reptiles
- checklist of amphibians and reptiles
- key to adult amphibians and reptiles
- key to larval amphibians
- key to eggs of the amphibians
- Species accounts of 18 species occurring in Alberta and four species possibly occurring in Alberta
- Zoogeography of the Alberta herpetofauna
- Amphibian and reptile natural history
- Coping with the cold
- The challenge of aridity
- Defense and venoms
- Man and herpetofauna

The Fishes of Alberta. 1993.

Joseph S. Nelson and Martin J. Paetz. The University of Alberta Press and the University of Calgary Press. 437 pp.

Contents:

- Fishing in Alberta
- Fish ecology
- Fish management in Alberta
- Post-glacial origin of our fish fauna
- The species concept, classification and checklist
- Fish species in Alberta, evolution and fossils
- Maps, keys and definitions
- Species accounts

Hoofed Mammals of Alberta. 1993.

Edited by J. Brad Stelfox. Lone Pine Publishing.
241 pp.

Contents:

- Identification
- Communication
- Distribution
- Predation
- Population dynamics and reproduction
- Parasites and disease
- Management
- Hunting and harvesting
- Economic aspects
- Commercialization

In early February, the government released the report of the Special Places 2000 Advisory Committee for public review. The report is an important milestone in the Special Places 2000 initiative.

The report and public reaction to its contents will be used as input to finalize government policy on the Special Places initiative. A 60-day period to examine the report and provide comments on its recommendations was provided. Although that period ended on April 8th, information is still being incorporated. The proposed policy, along with public and interdepartmental comments, will be submitted to

SPECIAL PLACES 2000



the Standing Policy Committee on Natural Resources and Sustainable Development and then to cabinet for review and approval. Cabinet is expected to release a response to the report shortly thereafter.

Committee chairman, Gary Severtson, said, "This report presents the views of many Albertans from all sectors; public, private and corporate. I believe its recommendations and subsequent public input will form the foundation for a comprehensive policy and action plan for completing a Special Places network in Alberta."

Special Places 2000 Fact Sheet

Special Places 2000: Alberta's natural heritage is a program to complete, before the year 2000, a network of legislatively protected areas that represent the diverse landscapes of the province. Special Places will build on our proud heritage of conservation—a heritage that includes Canada's first national park and a historical commitment to the establishment of provincial parks, wilderness areas, ecological reserves and natural areas.



Special Places are areas such as provincial parks, ecological reserves, wilderness areas and natural areas. Existing national parks also make a significant contribution to protecting natural landscapes in Alberta.





On March 11, 1992, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, in his capacity as the International President of the World Wildlife Fund, received a commitment from our provincial government to prepare a "made in Alberta" strategy for completing our component of Canada's Endangered Spaces program. That strategy came to be known as Special Places 2000: Alberta's Natural Heritage.




In November 1992, in Aylmer, Quebec, at the historic Tri-Council meeting of federal and provincial Ministers responsible for environment, parks and wildlife, the draft document *Special Places 2000: Alberta's Natural Heritage* was tabled as a statement of Alberta's commitment to the Endangered Spaces campaign. This

draft was distributed throughout Alberta, and a public advisory committee was established to gather public response and recommend a course of action for the program. During the spring and summer of 1993, a series of open houses and group meetings encouraged Albertans to share their views on the draft document. Input was received from individuals and organizations from all parts of the province, and included representations from rural and urban communities, local governments, industry and conservation groups


 Special Places 2000 is an essential component of both *Towards 2000 Together—The Premier's Conference on Alberta's Economic Future* and *Tourism 2000: A Vision for the Future*. Special Places represents an opportunity to balance the need for economic activity with the need to maintain environmental quality.


 There are many benefits to be gained from establishing Special Places. They serve as ecological benchmarks against which to monitor our changing environment. They preserve the province's biodiversity. They provide opportunities for outdoor recreation in natural settings, and their unspoiled natural landscapes will continue to attract visitors and sustain the long-term viability of Alberta's burgeoning tourist industry. Education and research opportunities are also provided by Special Places. Preservation benefits come from knowing that there still exist some wildland places in Alberta.


 Where options exist, Special Places will be selected in areas of low oil and gas potential. Carefully controlled, well-planned oil and gas extraction will be

permitted in some Special Places similar to the successful arrangement that has been implemented for Dinosaur Provincial Park World Heritage Site.





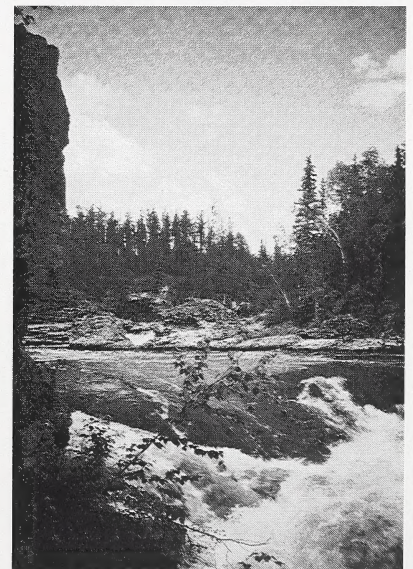
 Representatives of industry have expressed a willingness to become active partners in the selection and management of Special Places. Implementation of Special Places is seen as an opportunity to create harmony and a sense of stability for industry, environmental groups and the public.

 Public involvement will be a key component in the selection of Special Places as well as the preparation of management plans for these areas. The public, industry and nongovernment organizations will be invited to become active stewards of Alberta's Special Places.

 Although much of Alberta's forested land base has been committed to forestry development, there are still significant opportunities to set aside Special Places. Areas of high biological diversity are particularly important to

Special Places; these areas typically include lakes, wetlands and rugged landscapes with low forest productivity.

 Special Places will continue to support traditional ranching on native rangelands. Past stewardship of these areas is responsible for their present natural values. 



A rose by any other name may smell as sweet, but you had better make sure you know which rose you are talking about if you want to really understand its significance and its ecology. Being accurate and consistent in your use of a plant's name is crucial, if you want to communicate intelligently with anyone about that plant. The same is true for animal names.

This little note announces a couple of helpful publications for resolving the age-old problem of making sure that everyone is talking about the same thing, e.g., when they refer to a northern rough-winged swallow, an old man's beard or a small baby-blue-eyes.

Stewards are probably familiar with the biological species concept and the use of Latin names for scientific nomenclature (a formal system of naming things). Most non-scientists use common names, however, to refer to a species of plant or animal. Except for birds, the use of common names is not formalized and, consequently, many species have several common names. To avoid confusion resulting from different naming systems used by writers in Alberta Environmental Protection, I have been involved in the production of "official" lists for Alberta plants, fungi and vertebrates.

The first publication, *Alberta Plants and Fungi—Master Species List and Species Group Checklists*, lists the following: scientific names of species and families, taxonomic authority for the scientific name, a computer code for data entry, English common name (if there is one) that is recommended for use, and the source of the common name. In addition, the plant's form, its status as introduced or native, and its

What's in a Name?

By Dave Ealey

**Building,
9920 - 108 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2M4**

The second publication, *The Vertebrate Species of Alberta*, is available free-of-charge to volunteer stewards through the Natural Heritage Protection and Education Branch, Parks Services, Alberta Environmental Protection. All fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals known to occur in Alberta are included in the list (555 species). Common, Latin and computer code names are given along with the species' status. An errata sheet accompanies the vertebrate species list to correct a few minor errors. The list was originally published as a supplement to the *Alberta Naturalist*.

With these lists, you will be able to confirm that a "soft leather pillow" is not an item of furniture adornment, but in fact it is a fungus in the Sphaeriales family, specifically *Podostroma alutaceum*. You will also be able to tell that the northern flicker is the up-to-date name for a species of woodpecker which has been variously referred to, in different guidebooks printed since 1970, as the red-shafted/yellow-shafted flicker or common flicker.

rarity are included. In total, 3478 species are listed. The publication is available for \$5.50 (postage and handling included) through the following:

**Information
Centre,
Alberta
Environmental
Protection,
Main Floor,
Bramalea**

Building,

9920 - 108 Street,

Edmonton, Alberta

T5K 2M4

Rare Plant Fact Sheets

Several years ago, Natural Areas staff began working on an information series about the rare plant species of Alberta. We are not likely to do a fact sheet on each species, since there are about 400 considered rare. But we have been developing fact sheets on the high profile species, the species being monitored, and the species considered the rarest and most endangered. Each sheet tells how to recognize the species, its habitat requirements, its distribution and factors contributing to its rare status.

From the first couple of fact sheets initially printed in 1987, the series has expanded to 16! The Rare Plant Fact Sheets now available are listed below. If you would like copies of some or all of these, give us a call or write to this office.

- No. 1 *What Is a Rare Plant?*
- No. 2 *Mountain Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium montanum)*
- No. 3 *Western Blue Flag (Iris missouriensis)*
- No. 4 *Geyer's Wild Onion (Allium geyeri)*
- No. 5 *Yellow Paint-brush (Castilleja cusickii)*
- No. 6 *Big Sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata)*
- No. 7 *Western Spiderwort (Tradescantia occidentalis)*
- No. 8 *Dwarf Fleabane (Erigeron radicans)*
- No. 9 *Hare-footed Locoweed (Oxytropis lagopus)*
- No. 10 *Bog Adder's-mouth (Malaxis paludosa)*
- No. 11 *Jones' Columbine (Aquilegia jonesii)*
- No. 12 *Nebraska Sedge (Carex nebraskensis)*
- No. 13 *Englemann's Spike-rush (Eleocharis ovata)*
- No. 14 *Smooth Boisduvalia (Boisduvalia glabella)*
- No. 15 *Alpine Poppy (Papaver pygmaeum)*
- No. 16 *Upland Evening-primrose (Oenothera andina)*

Site Activities

January 26, 1994 to April 5, 1994

A regular feature to keep volunteer stewards and interested individuals informed of activities occurring on our sites.

Armstrong Lake

- new natural area reservation

Aurora:

- proposed seismic program approved with specific conditions

Bear River:

- proposed seismic program approved with specific conditions

Bellis North:

- proposed seismic program denied access to site; proposed pipeline rejected

Beta Lake:

- natural area reservation renewed

Black Fox Island:

- natural area reservation renewed

Boyer:

- natural area reservation renewed

Buck Lake Creek:

- proposed seismic lines restricted to hand-stringing of geophones

Hastings Lake:

- natural areas reservation renewed

High Island:

- natural area reservation renewed

Holmes Crossing:

- request to operate outfitting camp received

Hubert Lake:

- Licence of Occupation (LOC) for wellsite access road, Miscellaneous Lease (MSL) for wellsite and pipeline (PLA) approved with specific conditions; 20 acre parcel deleted from natural area reservation

Jackknife Springs:

- natural areas reservation renewed

Landslide Lake:

- boundary of site amended; site now extends to height of land

Lac La Biche:

- Natural Area reservation renewed

Lasthill Creek:

- Natural Area reservation renewed

MacIntosh Lake:

- proposed seismic program restricted to hand-stringing of geophones

Manly Corner:

- application for recreation lease on site rejected

Medicine Lodge Hills:

- request to hold snowmobile poker rally on site rejected

North Buck Lake:

- natural areas reservation renewed

Old Canoe Island:

- seismic program denied access to site

Otauwau River:

- natural area reservation renewed

Paintearth Coulee:

- proposed seismic program, using portable equipment approved; Licence of Occupation (LOC) for wellsite access road approved

Pembina Field:

- pipeline approved

Poplar Creek:~

- Municipal District endorsed designation of site

Saskatoon Mountain:

- proposed seismic program approved, restricted to hand-stringing geophones; natural area reservation renewed on part of site

Snakes Head:

- mechanical brush clearing of powerline right of way approved

Spruce Island Lake:

- application for recreation lease

rejected; brush control along roadside restricted to mechanical control

St. Francis:

- natural area reservation renewed

Sylvan Lake:

- seismic program denied access to site

Tawatinaw:

- proposed seismic program approved with specific conditions; Licence of Occupation (LOC) approved for wellsite access road

White Earth Valley:

- Licence of Occupation for wellsite access road approved

Wilson Creek:

- natural area reservation renewed

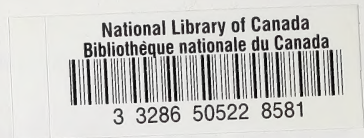
Summary for Reporting Period:

- Activities were reported on 33 Sites; 40 activities; 1 new site reservation; 2 boundary amendments; 12 natural area reservations renewed; 2 Recreation Lease applications rejected; 2 brush control projects approved; seismic programs: 7 approved & 3 rejected; LOCs: 4 approved; MSL 1 approved; PLAs: 2 approved & 1 rejected. ▲



Return Address:

Natural Areas Branch
10405 Jasper Avenue
8th Floor, Standard Life Centre
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3N4



For the Birds (From pg. 6)

nesting grounds in northern Canada, and on their wintering grounds in Costa Rica.

“Birders of a Feather” (22 minutes, 1993) features not just birds, but birdwatchers at Beaverhill Lake, Alberta, in Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, and at the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Costa Rica.

Videos are available for home use for \$29.95 each (GST included). Public Performance, Educational or Organizational purchase is \$49.95 each.

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“For The Birds”
455 - 12 Street N.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1Y9
Phone (403)283-6201
Fax (403)283-6214 ◀

Coming Events

Thursday, July 7, 7:00 p.m. at Wagner main gate

Mushroom Walk. University of Alberta mycologist Sean Abbott will lead this evening trip which should prove exciting whether one’s interests in mushrooms are gastronomic or taxonomic or both. If conditions have been exceptionally unfavourable for mushroom growth, however, this trip may be postponed. If you are uncertain, call Sean at 987-4811 (the Devonian Botanic Garden) or Alice Hendry (962-4836) or Patsy Cotterill (481-1525) close to the date.

Saturday, August 20, 1:30 p.m. at the main gate

Bug Walk. Executive member and well-known Provincial Museum entomologist Terry Thormin will lead another walk for us this year to see what’s afoot and in the air in the way of bugs. Unfortunately, this trip will have to be cancelled if the weather is inclement, when bugs stay home. Call Terry at 482-1389 if you need further information.

The Sherwood Park Natural Area Volunteer Stewards and Strathcona County Recreation, Parks and Culture Invites You:

To an Open House and Volunteer Recognition event on Saturday, September 17, 1994.

For More Information...

Call Jean Funk at 467-2211. Tours of the site, including the new bird watching stand, will be available. ◀

